NOTEWORTHY...from page 5

students is that there's no stereotype for a good person. I'm not the typical Religion teacher, but I think the biggest part of my success as a Religion teacher is that many times I've been a failure as a Catholic." She easily admits to going through her own rebellious phase and late night drinking sprees, like many teenagers. "As I grew up, I realized certain things didn't do me good. I still don't consider myself a perfect Christian, but I'm struggling and I think that's what's important, that struggle. I don't think I exactly inspired my students to be good people, but to keep trying to be the best they can be."

Chinie is quick to dispel the split-personality hypothesis on her character, though. "People always ask me how I can teach Religion and be the Blair Bitch at the same time. But I don't think I'm being two different people. Honestly, I'll be the first person to defend somebody being abused. When you read the book, it's so outrageous it's obviously a gag!"

Amidst the sea of praises and giggles, there are the inevitable few who have expressed disapproval of her poems. Chinie recalls her most memorable critic, a guy she describes as "someone really into the Arts." He was visibly distraught by the naughty rhymes, exclaiming, "Poetry shouldn't be like this!" Unaffected, Chinie exclaims, "Please, I don't even consider myself a poet! Browning and Shakespeare would turn over in their graves! I'm just a funny rhymer." She asserts her poems are meant mainly to amuse. In fact, she says, half of the poems poke fun at herself. An example is a poem soon to be released in a sequel currently in the works. The poem "You're Too Old For That Dress," is actually about her. "I have this leather dress that I used to wear when I was thinner and younger. When I put it on recently, I thought, I'm too old for this dress!" Believing it's important to be able to laugh at yourself, she says, "If you're a critic, don't dish out what you can't take!"

Though she continues to get tons of ideas on nasty new topics to write about from her friends and family, she never releases them if they're simply too mean. "The poems I write are about things that people can change, not things that are intrinsic in them. It's like giving people advice on matters they can do without."

Writing the Blair Bitch books is only one of the many ventures Chinie has embarked on. After officially resigning from the Assumption, she became, in her words, an "Idea Factory." She has a full time copy writing job at a direct mailing company and is working on setting up her own publishing firm called "Pandora's Books," which will focus on humorous works by young writers. Though she plans to retire the Blair Bitch series after Book 2, she reveals she is creating a spin-off product, "The Blair Bitch Emergency Kit," a box of assorted war weapons (like a do-it-yourself voodoo doll) for every self-declared "bitch". She also gives seminars on improving one's self-esteem. (Go figure.)

Chinie's activity-filled days are simply a manifestation of her life philosophy: "I believe you should try to improve yourself constantly. Never stand still, always challenge yourself to be better than you are right now." Words to live by, courtesy of the Blair Bitch herself.

Lissa Lesaca does field work in the open sea, doing research on humpback whales

tedious. For every meter of coral reef saved, many more are still being lost to pollution and illegal fishing practices. For every dolphin saved, many more are still being butchered as shark bait or entangled in fish nets that have been left behind and forgotten. For every hectare of forest preserved, hundreds more are lost to illegal logging and the need for more developed spaces.

More often than not, changing attitudes about the environment has less to do with oceans and forests than with culture, economics and politics. In this sense, it is never enough to just save the environment. People must be saved as well. In many cases, people must be saved *first*.

In the WWF office, the work continues, day after day after day. For as long as there are people who save and an environment to fight for, the work will never really end.

Nayna Malayang

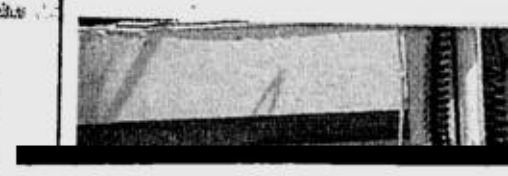
For more information about WWF Philippines and conservation work, please send your inquiries or comments to kkp@wwf-phil.org.ph.or call 433-3220.

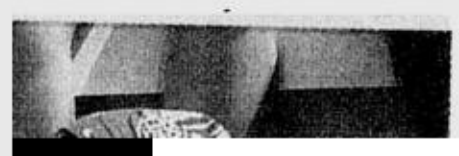
STYLEWATCH...from page 11

Here at Earthaven, Dita comes as often as she can to paint, meditate by the waterfalls and yes, design her clothes made of natural fabrics. Dita realizes that as a fashion designer, she is but one of the many voices that seek to promote "the traditional fabrics that certainly can be useful, at the same time beautiful, even in these very modern times."

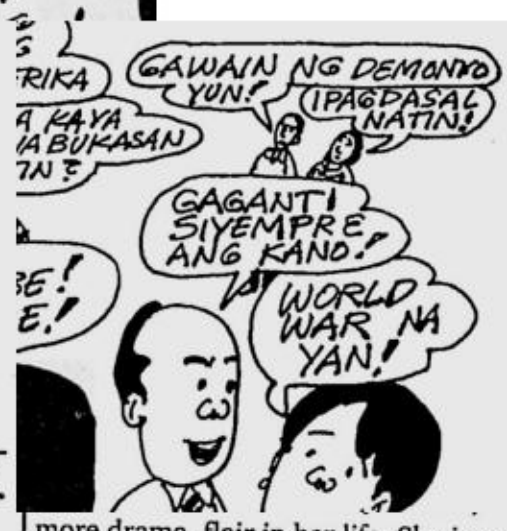
Among the women designers, she has long admired Patis Tesoro, Lulu Tan Gan and Malu Veloso, among others, who came a few years ahead of her and "who have found their niche in the fashion world. You look at a dress or a gown and you know it's by this particular lady designer. It is because of such women that I too have chosen to specialize in a specific kind of wear made of a specific fabric that would distinguish them from other creations."

Dita has thus targeted a clientele that is also distinct in their taste. "The woman who wears my clothes, or my wraps, is someone who has





by Jess Abrera



more drama, flair in her life. She is no
has a sense of style that allows her to
and unconsciously. The result is she ge
thinking she is asking for it. She is nev

As for her choice of the banana fabric
ultimate reasons. "It is one of the stron
beautiful sheen. It has its own body, a
The colors come out beautiful. And, of
these, it is something that we can call

t afraid to be different, and she
wear natural fabrics effortlessly
ts second looks without people
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, she gets revved up citing the
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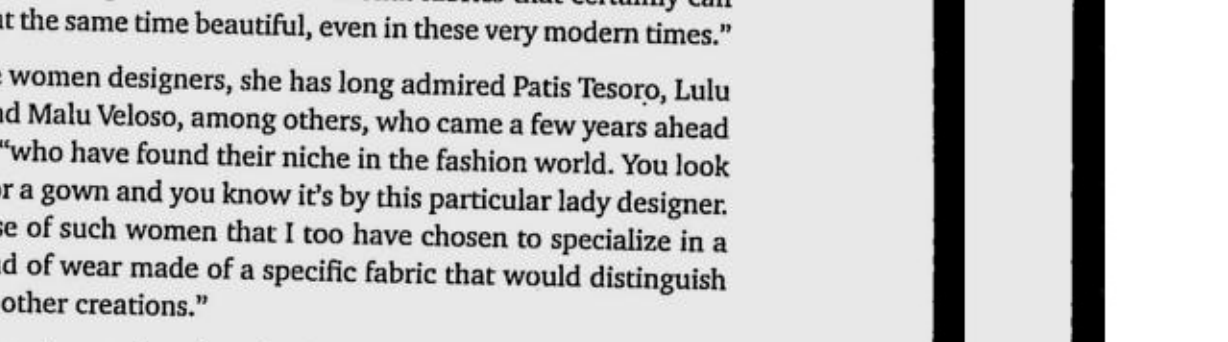
Pinoy NGA!

Terrorist Attack sa U.S.



This Week

Art

Zinia Sanctuary, a suite of delicate, lyrical watercolor paintings by Sa-Ock Kim at Finale Art Gallery, SM Megamall A until today.

The New Millennium in My Dreams, a traveling exhibit of paintings of young artists from Asia and Europe, ongoing until Oct. 6 at the Main Gallery, 3/L, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

From "Musmos," Jovito Andres' exhibit at the Shangri-La Plaza

Rebolusyon, 15 medium to large-scale oil paintings by Jeho Bitancor on what transpired at Edsa II, until Oct. 8 at the Liongoren Gallery, 111 New York St., Cubao, QC. The exhibit [illegible] 1994-2001 featuring "The Kangaroo Suite," "The Royal Suite," "Dancing Couples" and "Artists & Muse" series, until Oct. 19 at Australia Center, 104 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

Music

Yours Truly, The Air Supply—Live in Manila, a one-night concert by the hit tandem of Graham Russell and Russell Hitchcock at the Araneta Coliseum, Oct. 2 at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at all SM Ticketnet outlets and Araneta Ticketnet (911-5555). For ticket reservations, call Viva Concerts at 413-2572.

Red Hot & Live: True Faith dishes out classic tunes and recent hits on Oct. 6, 8 p.m. at the Henry Lee Irwin Theater, Ateneo de Manila, Katipunan, QC. For details, call 891-5610 or 925-5413.

Concert at the Park presents the University of the Philippines Guitar Orchestra in an hour of specially-arranged-for-guitar pieces representing different nations of the world on Oct. 7, 5 p.m. at the Rizal Park. Admission is free.

Latin Nights @ The Prince: Catch Marmalade, a trio of women musicians, play Latin and jazz music every Friday at 10 p.m. at The Prince (formerly The Prince of Wales), baseme[illegible] New Plaza Building, Makati. For details, call [illegible]

For this week's bands and sc[illegible]

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila ([illegible]
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

Onstage

Promises, Promises, a joyful musical from a[illegible] with music by Burt Bacharach presented by [illegible] the Meralco Theater, Ortigas Avenue, Pasig. T[illegible] the classic hits "I'll Never Fall In Love," "Pr[illegible] "Knowing When To Leave" and other memo[illegible] Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo and Michael William[illegible] 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28 and 29. [illegible] 5610 and 536-5844.

Carmen, Tanghalang Pilipino's chamber oper[illegible] the novel by Prosper Merimee featuring the[illegible] mieres Oct. 5, 8 p.m. at the CCP Little Th[illegible] mances are Oct. 6, 12, 13, 19, 20 at 8 p.m.; O[illegible] at 2:30 p.m. For inquiries, call 832-3661 or 8[illegible]

The Block-A Mass Communication Juniors [illegible] will also be on view a[illegible] F, SM Megamall from [illegible]

Musmos, Jovito Andr[illegible] hearted situations at [illegible] Oct. 15.

Ten: ***Ang Ilustrador*** **Exhibition has been** Galleries of the Met [illegible] call 523-7855.

Rafael del Casal tac[illegible] ings at Finale Art File[illegible] Road, Makati until O[illegible]

Gary Shead: After t[illegible] [illegible] Heritage Art Center, The Artwalk, 4/[illegible] Oct. 9 to 13.

[illegible]es' exhibit of paintings on children in light-[illegible] the Gallery 828, 6/L, Shangri-La Plaza until [illegible]

[illegible]ng Kabataan's **10th Year Anniversary** [illegible] extended until Oct. 6 at the Upper Level [illegible] Museum, Roxas Blvd., Manila. For details, [illegible]

[illegible]kles still life in his new exhibit of oil paint-[illegible]e, LaO Center, San Lorenzo Village, Pasay [illegible]ct. 10.

[illegible]he Paintings, a selection of etchings from [illegible] QC presents *Sunlakbay: Mga Kuwento ng [illegible]* ***ng mga Kababaihan*** featuring *"Las Viajeras* selected poetry by the same writer, directed b[illegible] Oct. 7, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. at The Pere Chauv[illegible] lege, QC. For inquiries, call 0919-5967693 [illegible]

Rent, a musical about eight modern-day bo[illegible] love and inspiration in New York's East Vill[illegible] GSIS Theater in Pasay City on Oct. 5 for a fi[illegible] are available at Atlantis Productions (892-70[illegible] (891-5610).

Comedy Club @ Greenbelt Mall, a star[illegible] featuring Jon Santos on Oct. 4, 7 p.m. at the[illegible] row near theater lobby. Admission is free.

[illegible] Oct. 6, 2-4 p.m. at the Filipinas Heritage Library Reading Room. Admission fee is P75. For details, call 892-1801 or email events@fillib.org.ph.

Every Saturday of October, the Defense Specialists are offering a four-session **Woman's Way of Self-Defense** at 441 Malaya St., Mandaluyong City. The course will cover basic useful strikes, hand-to-hand defense, anti-rape techniques and some bonus lessons. For inquiries, call 532-6395.

Momento gives shoppers an early Christmas treat until today. Visit Momento at SM Megamall Bldg. B and at the Alabang Town Center to avail yoursel[illegible] and functional bags fro[illegible] shoes from Bruno Mag[illegible] Valero; ready to wear[illegible] Iceberg.

This Is Me, a writing[illegible] writing exercises, Oct[illegible] COD Bldg., Cubao, Q[illegible] The ABS-CBN Found[illegible] for children and the e[illegible]

[illegible] of up to 70 percent discount on fashionable [illegible]m Biasia, Rodo, Desmo and Vanessa; trendy [illegible]li, Rodo, Pedro Garcia, Magrit and Martinez [illegible] from Sinequanone, Laurel, Borgofiori and [illegible]

[illegible] workshop that features lectures and actual [illegible]. 6-7, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Earthlite, 4/F, [illegible]C. For inquiries, call 417-1521.

[illegible]ation Inc. will hold the **Saturday Art Sale** [illegible]nvironment on Oct. 6 at the 13/F, ELJ Com-[illegible]

[illegible]ent of the Greenbelt [illegible]315-4273/74.

[illegible]hedules call:

[illegible]521-7604)

[illegible] book by Neil Simon [illegible]Actors Actors Inc. at [illegible]The musical contains [illegible]romises, Promises," [illegible]orable tunes. It stars [illegible]s. Playdates are Oct. [illegible]For tickets, call 891-

[illegible]a in Filipino based on [illegible] music of Bizet, pre-[illegible]eater. Other perfor-[illegible]ct. 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 21 [illegible]32-1125 loc. 1620.

[illegible] of St. Paul College, [illegible]

[illegible]hemians in search of [illegible]age, will open at the [illegible]ve-week run. Tickets [illegible]78) and Ticketworld

[illegible]nd-up comedy show [illegible]e Greenbelt Mall café

[illegible]s High and Low by [illegible]e" and Orson Welles' [illegible]start at 1 p.m. at 24 [illegible]ll 721-8677 or email

[illegible] series of bridal talks [illegible]re for their wedding,

[illegible]" by Joi Barrios and [illegible]y Elizabeth Climaco, [illegible]et Hall, St. Paul Col-[illegible]r 0917-9412844.

Cinema

Titus Brandsma Center will screen the film[illegible] Akira Kurosawa, "Welcome to the Dollhous[illegible] "Citizen Kane" on Oct. 6. Screening will [illegible] Acacia St., New Manila, QC. For details, ca[illegible] tbcmedia@csi.com.ph.

Atbp

Document Your Wedding, the last of the[illegible] aimed at helping brides and grooms prepa[illegible]

[illegible] drawings, sculptures[illegible] tennial of the Balang[illegible] Center (provincial c[illegible] (053) 327-2743 and [illegible]

The Sunday Inquirer [illegible] side Metro Manila. P[illegible] advance, and include c[illegible] ets. You can reach us b[illegible] 4811.

Magazine welcomes listings of events in and out-[illegible] lease send announcements at least two weeks in [illegible]ontact numbers for inquiries on schedules and tick-[illegible]y e-mail at sim@inquirer.com.ph or by fax at 897-[illegible]

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[illegible] by Joi Barrios and [illegible]y Elizabeth Climaco, [illegible]et Hall, St. Paul Col-[illegible]r 0917-9412844.

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[illegible] series of bridal talks [illegible]re for their wedding,

Lourdes Parish in Tagaytay City. For details, call Pura at 752-3688.

P100 creative writing workshop from Pinoywriters.com and Goodwill Bookstore: "Show, Don't Tellow," Oct. 6, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. For details, call Roland at 752-2737 or e-mail roland@electromedia.ph

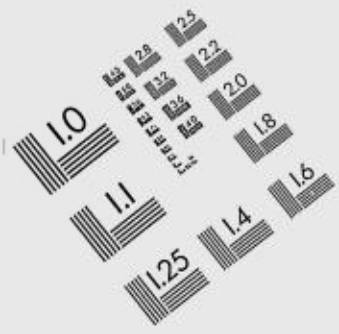
Firma Sale, 20-70 percent off on houseware and accessories, bags by Gigi De Jonghe, Wendy Maramba, Joey Reyes and Jim Tan; bags, shoes and accessories by Michele Sison, and jewelry by Gemma Suzara. Firma is located at 616 J. Nakpil St., Malate, Manila.

Isabel Moreno's exquisite silk-knotted bracelets and other unique items will be on sale at The Merry Merchants Bazaar, organized by The Chosen Children Village Foundation and Abot Pangarap Foundation Inc. present to raise funds for underprivileged children. It will be held today, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila. Tickets available at the gate.

Mandy Navasero offers weekend photography lecture series at 1935 Dominga St., near corner Sen. Gil Puyat, Pasay City: Portraiture Photography (Oct. 6, 7, Nov. 10 and 11), Glamour and Fashion Photography (Oct. 13, 14, Nov. 17 and 18); Product and Food Photography (Oct. 20, 21, Nov. 24 and 25). For details, call 522-1901 and 522-1905.

X-manila

Balangiga: Mga Aningal (Echoes of Balangiga), an art exhibit by the Atitipalo Visual Arts Group of Palo, Leyte featuring paintings, [illegible] and installations in connection with the cer[illegible] [illegible]iga Massacre, until Oct. 15 at the Leyte SME[illegible] [illegible]apitol grounds), Tacloban City. For details, ca[illegible] (053) 323-2372.



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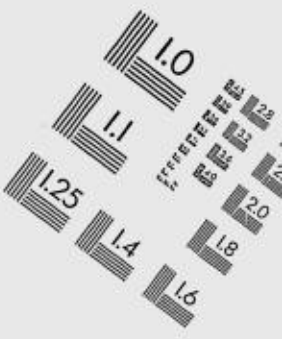

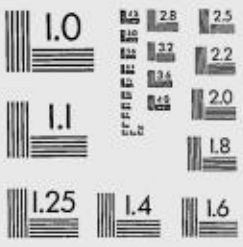

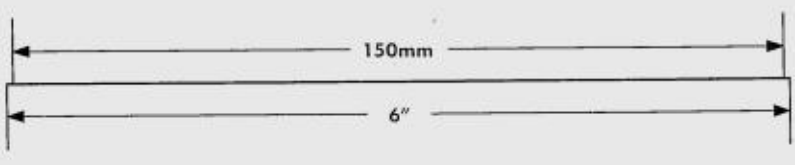

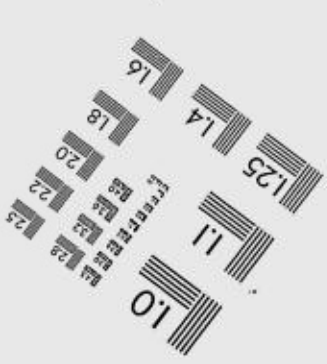

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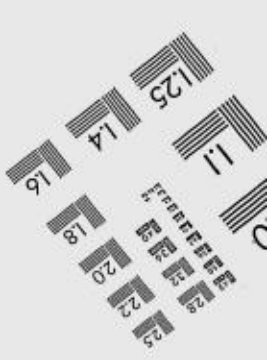

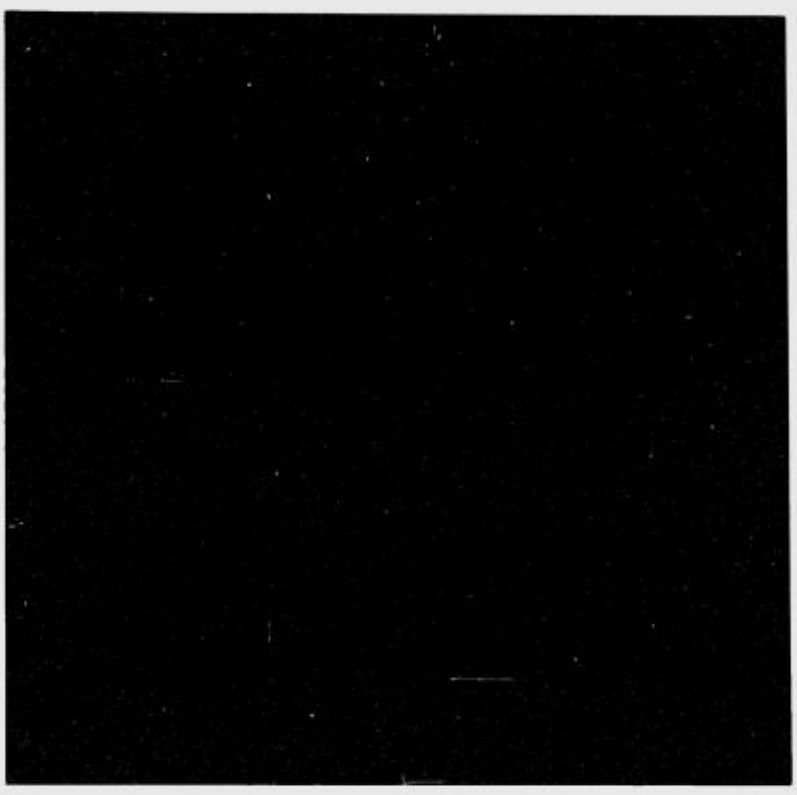

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